Friday, March 7, 2025



#### **Enter the 2025 VACo Achievement Awards**

Deadline is July 1, 2025



Dear VACo Members -

It's time for the 2025 Achievement Awards Program. Any county department is eligible to compete so ENTER NOW!

#### 2025 Achievement Awards Submission Form

All entries are required to be submitted in electronic form. No paper copy submissions are necessary. The electronic submissions should be a PDF or WORD file. **Electronic submissions** through the link above must be received by July 1, 2025.

Last year, we processed 145 entries and selected 45 winners from over 30 Counties. VACo presented awards at Board of Supervisors Meetings, recognized winners at the 90th Annual Conference, and issued a news release to statewide media.

The judges for the 2025 Achievement Awards will be announced soon.

VACo has received more than 1,000 entries over the past decade. Last year's Best Achievement winner was **Smyth County** for its "**Smyth Grow**" program.

VACo encourages all Counties, big and small, to enter the 2025 Achievement Awards Program. Please contact **gharter@vaco.org** with questions or for more information.

<u>Achievement Awards Submission Form</u> | <u>Achievement Awards Website</u> 2024 Achievement Awards Press Release | Past Achievement Award Winners



# Introducing Schneider Electric as a New VACo Premier Partner



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Abby Weigel 804-248-0523 Abby.Weigel@se.com



Kevin DeLeon 804.517.2819 Kevin.DeLeon@se.com

# House Emergency Committee on Impacts of Federal Workforce and Funding Reductions Holds First Meeting



The Emergency Committee on the Impacts of Federal Workforce and Funding Reductions held its initial meeting on Saturday, February 22, prior to the General Assembly concluding its 2025 regular session work. House Speaker Don Scott appointed the bipartisan committee earlier in February, charging committee members with collecting data on the potential scope of reductions to the federal workforce or other federal funding cuts and the effects of these actions on Virginia's economy and budget, and seeking stakeholder perspectives on ways to mitigate these impacts on Virginia and make the state's economy more resilient.

The Committee received briefings from Clark Mercer, Executive Director of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, and Eric Scorsone, Executive Director of the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, who shared estimates of the numbers of federal jobs based in Virginia and federal workers who reside in Virginia, as well as estimated economic effects on Virginia of varying scenarios of reductions in federal civilian employment.

House Appropriations Committee staff also provided an overview of the importance of federal spending to Virginia's budget; staff's preliminary estimates indicate that approximately one-

#### **WORKFORCE FROM PAGE 3**

third of the state's total spending in FY 2024 was supported by federal funding, with Medicaid receiving the lion's share of federal dollars (\$14.6 billion), followed by K-12 (\$2.5 billion), higher education (\$1.4 billion), social services (\$1.4 billion), and transportation (\$1.4 billion). In addition, Virginia benefits from direct federal payments to residents, as well as federal contracts. As reported in VACo's **summary** of the state budget amendments recently passed by the General Assembly, legislators embedded several provisions intended to allow the state to respond to significant changes in federal spending, including reporting requirements on any federal changes that would affect state general fund revenues or federal grant funding; a requirement for the Governor to consult with legislative leadership about a special session if federal grant reductions reach a certain threshold; and a pause on the state's automatic conformity with the federal tax code.

Joe Flores, Director of Fiscal Policy for the Virginia Municipal League, shared an overview of the importance of federal funding to localities, particularly in certain regions with large concentrations of federal workers. He pointed out that local governments are in the process of adopting FY 2026 budgets, and explained the critical importance of clarity on which federal grants may be subject to funding freezes. He suggested that timely access to unemployment data from the state would be helpful in allowing localities to understand the scope of job losses and respond accordingly.

Virginia Employment Commissioner Mitch Melis shared information with the Committee on how unemployment insurance benefits are provided to federal workers who lose their jobs, and discussed improvements to the state's system that were made in response to the influx of unemployment claims during the COVID-19 pandemic, assuring Committee members that the Virginia Employment Commission is prepared to handle large numbers of claims from federal workers if needed.

Committee members concluded the meeting with a roundtable discussion of additional data points and items to consider in the Committee's next meetings, which are planned to be held in different regions of the state. Items discussed included the importance of obtaining clear data on the federal workforce's presence in Virginia; an interest in modeling the effects of several different job loss scenarios on the Virginia economy; the need to invite participation by private sector businesses that may have job openings; potential effects on the housing market; impacts to higher education as well as K-12; and opportunities to re-examine the respective responsibilities of the state and federal governments.

Presentations from the February 22 meeting are available at this link.

**VACo Contact: Katie Boyle** 



# Visit Roanoke County and the Roanoke County Historic Courthouse

**Location:** 301 East Main Street / Thompson Memorial Drive

Built: 1909 – 1910 Style: Classical Revival Architect: Harry H Huggins

Contractor: King Lumber Company

**Description:** The building faces south and is a three story yellow colored brick and concrete structure. The rectangular shaped building is located on landscaped grounds in the center of Salem on the west side of the courthouse. The south front has a large portico with four tall Ionic columns rising to a pediment at the roof life. The recessed entrance has a small pediment above. On the center of the roof is a square white colored cupola with red colored dome and eagle at the top. In the interior, the former courtroom was located on the second story. In 1949 to 1949, a two story yellow colored brick addition was constructed on the north side. The building ceased to serve as the courthouse in 1984 and was renamed as the Francis T West Hall, a part of the adjacent Roanoke College.

**History:** The county was created in 1838 and Salem was selected as the county seat. The court first met on the second story of the James C Huff Building. The first courthouse was a two-story brick structure built by Williams C Williams of Salem in 1841. The courthouse was torn down in 1909 and the second courthouse was constructed in 1909 to 1910 at a cost of \$34,870. The courthouse was sold in 1985. The third and present courthouse was constructed in 1980 to 1981.

**SOURCE: American Courthouses** 

# VACO 2025 REGIONAL MEETINGS



IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL
MEETINGS SCHEDULE TO BE
RELEASED SOON!



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Thank you Wythe County Chief Deputy Anthony Cline for sharing your experience with Blue Line Solutions!



Thank you Sussex County Sheriff <a href="Ernest Giles">Ernest Giles</a> for sharing your experience with Blue Line Solutions!

# Premier Partner Spotlight Blue Line Solutions Testimonials

**Blue Line Solutions** is making a positive impact on communities all over Virginia. In Smyth County - **Blue Line Solutions** recorded during a five-day period that there were 3,530 vehicles traveling through school speed zones at 10mph or higher above the speed limit. That's over 12,000 speeding vehicles a month during school days.

**Blue Line Solutions** uses information and communications rather than focus on enforcement to reduce speeds in school zones.

During **Blue Line Solutions** Public Information Phase of its program in Smyth County - the number dropped to 213 over a five-day period. That's without writing one ticket. The community heard the problem and reacted to it. During the warning phase - the number dropped to 175. Then during the enforcement phase - it dropped to 72. That's a 98 percent reduction of speeders compared to before the **Blue Line Solutions** program.

"That's absolutely fantastic that we can make a difference in a community," Blue Line Solutions CEO/Founder Mark Hutchinson said.

### Jim Holland Recognized By Local, State Leaders for Public Service to Chesterfield



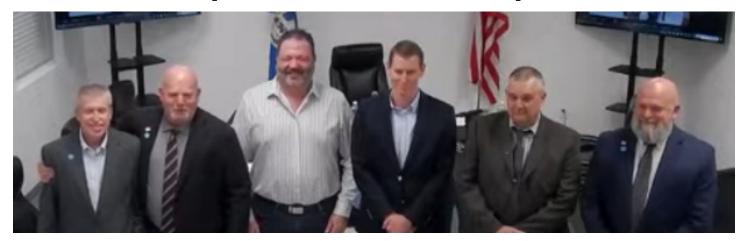
Former Chesterfield Board of Supervisors members Dan Gecker, Leslie Haley, Dorothy Jaeckle and Tara Carroll joined the current board, as well as Virginia Sen. Ghazala Hashmi and Del. Carrie Coyner, in honoring Dale District Supervisor Jim Holland during its February 26 meeting.

Supervisor Holland, who has represented the Dale District since 2008, recently received the Chester Family YMCA's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Service Leadership Award in recognition of his outstanding leadership to Chesterfield County.

Jody Alexander, CEO of the YMCA of Greater Richmond, noted the award "stands as a testament to his unwavering commitment to the betterment of all Chesterfield County residents, a commitment that mirrors the principles that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. fought for throughout his life."

Supervisor Holland, the first African American to serve as chair of the Board of Supervisors, also was recognized earlier this month with resolutions on the floor of both the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates.

#### **Amelia County Welcomes New County Administrator**



The Amelia County Board of Supervisors is pleased to announce the appointment of Eric S. Pollitt as its County Administrator. At its meeting on February 26, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved an employment agreement with Mr. Pollitt who currently serves as the Town Manager of Tappahannock. Prior to his tenure in Tappahannock, Mr. Pollitt served as Town Manager of Glasgow and as a Management Analyst for Fluvanna County. Mr. Pollitt began his local government management career as an ICMA Management Fellow for Templeton, MA. Mr. Pollitt succeeds A. Taylor Harvie III.

Amelia County Board of Supervisors Chairman David Felts said, "We are excited to welcome Eric Pollitt to Amelia County. Eric brings considerable knowledge and skills to the position as well as experience as a chief administrator in other Virginia localities. The Board was particularly impressed with Eric's proven track record managing local government finances and obtaining and administering grants as well as his highly collaborative approach to working with staff, the governing body and the community. We are certain that Eric will be a valuable asset to Amelia County, and we are looking forward to him assuming his duties."

The Board of Supervisors conducted a national search for the new County Administrator, assisted by The Berkley Group of Bridgewater, Virginia. The Board of Supervisors also expressed their sincere appreciation for the professional services of Clarence Monday who provided valuable support as Interim County Administrator for the past eight months.

Mr. Pollitt earned a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Kentucky with a concentration in public financial management. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Virginia Commonwealth University with a major in political science and minor in economics. Eric is a member of both the Virginia Local Government Management Association and the International City/County Management Association, and he is a Certified Zoning Official.

Mr. Pollitt commented, "I am honored and humbled to serve as Amelia County's next County Administrator. I am excited to begin working collaboratively with the Board of Supervisors. I deeply appreciate the time and care taken to ensure the right fit for the role. I look forward to working with the County's staff, being a part of the community, and serving Amelia County to the best of my abilities."

Mr. Pollitt will join Amelia County as the new County Administrator on April 14.

# REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS LEGAL SERVICES



The County of Halifax and is seeking proposals for legal services. Details regarding this request for proposal may be obtained from the County Administration Office, 1050 Mary Bethune Street, Halifax, Virginia 24558 or on the County website <a href="www.halifaxcountyva.gov">www.halifaxcountyva.gov</a>. Proposals are due no later than 2pm, March 28, 2025 at the address listed above.

Any proposal received after this deadline will be returned to the offeror unopened. The County reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, and/or divide any projects into sections. The County is an equal opportunity employer. The County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or against faith-based organizations.

The selection process will be by competitive negotiation in accordance with Virginia Code §2.2-4301.

# Capitol Contact

## Virginia General Assembly

Virginia Association of Counties • 1207 E. Main Street, Suite 300 • Richmond, VA 23219 www.vaco.org • 804.788.6652

#### FEBRUARY 2025

- February 27, 2025: <u>Transportation Services Mandate Bills Pass the General Assembly</u>
- February 25, 2025: Speed Camera Bill Heads to Governor Youngkin
- February 20, 2025: FOIA Fees Legislation Falters
- February 18, 2025: <u>BPOL Legislation Headed to Conference</u>
- February 18, 2025: Capitol Contact ALERT! Maintain State-Local Partnership in Children's Services Act
- February 13, 2025: <u>ACTION ITEM: School Construction Financing Bill Language Needed in Budget</u>
- February 11, 2025: <u>ACTION ITEM: Oppose Bill to Preempt Local Land Use Authority</u>
- February 6, 2025: Status of JLARC K-12 Funding Legislation Post Crossover
- February 4, 2025: Money Committees Release Budget Proposals

#### JANUARY 2025

- January 30, 2025: <u>VACo Opposes Bill Mandating Targets for Utility-Scale Solar in Comprehensive Plans</u>
- January 29, 2025: Capitol Contact ALERT! VACo Opposes Bill that Imposes Strict Limitations on Providing Drinking Water
- January 29, 2025: Capitol Contact ALERT! VACo Opposes Bill Mandating Targets for Utility-Scale Solar in Comprehensive Plans
- January 28, 2025: <u>Oppose Bills Mandating Collective Bargaining and Other Employment Terms for Transportation Services</u>
- January 24, 2025: Capitol Contact ALERT! Contact Your Legislators to Oppose Speed Camera Bills that Preempt Local Authority
- January 23, 2025: County Government Day Capitol Contact
- January 21, 2025: VACo Supports School Construction Financing Bill
- January 16, 2025: <u>VACo Opposes Bills Mandating Collective Bargaining and Other Employment Terms for Transportation Services</u>
- January 14, 2025: VACo Advocates for Removal of K-12 Support Cap
- January 9, 2025: <u>General Assembly Convenes, Adopts Schedule for 2025 General Assembly Session</u>





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## NACo Al Leadership Academy

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#### **About the Program**

The NACo AI Leadership Academy is an innovative program designed to equip frontline county government leaders with the knowledge and tools to understand and utilize AI, enhancing operational efficiency, organizational effectiveness, and value for their constituents.

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**Introduction to AI:** Explore AI's history, technologies, societal impact, and an AI playbook for leaders.

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**Your Al Roadmap:** Navigate Al's potential and pitfalls, set expectations, and measure stakeholder impact.

**Leading People & Al:** Lead digital transformation by focusing on people, not just technology.

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**What's Next - Three Horizons:** Plan, operationalize, and leverage projects, programs, and progress over three horizons.

#### **Program Features**



**Expert Leadership Coaches:** Keeps
participants on track.



World-Class Faculty: Includes prominent leaders from public, private, and academic sectors.



Practical, Actionable Insights: Immediate application to real-world challenges.

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#### April 7th & November 3rd

Demystify AI with practical cases, frameworks, and tools. Increase your confidence to lead with AI for good governance.

This program offers lessons from highly effective government leaders, proven industry executives, researchers, professors from top universities, and subject matter experts. An online Leadership Coach will guide participants through pressing issues such as understanding the power of AI, mitigating its risks, and navigating the complexities of change brought on by AI.

- √ 6 Weeks Long
- ✓ Fully Facilitated Online
- ✓ Made for Current and Emerging Leaders

#### **Enroll Today**

Visit NACo Al Leadership Academy or email lukea@pdaleadership.com





#### **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD)**

The BEAD application process closed on Saturday, March 1st. The Commonwealth received over 2,000 applications, representing 92% of eligible locations total! The Office of Broadband will commence the review process and announce more information when available.

#### **Digital Opportunity**

The Office of Broadband is accepting application for the Digital Skills, Literacy, and Device (DSLD) Program until April 21st, 2025! This program aims to implement new, expand, and/or upscale existing programs related to the advancement of digital skills and literacy, digital navigation, digital device refurbishment and/or device distribution. Click here for more details.

When preparing an application for the DSLD program, make sure to join the Office's technical assistance sessions! Technical assistance sessions are held three times a month. Click here to register for a technical assistance session. Interested parties may also email digitalopportunity@dhcd.virginia.gov with questions.

The Office of Broadband is still accepting applications for the Virginia Affordability and Adoption Planning Grant, so meet with your locality now to support your planning efforts! This program enables local and Tribal governments to conduct needs assessments, prioritize objectives, and create actionable plans to bridge digital opportunity gaps in their communities. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. Please note that the deadline for accepting applications has been extended through May 31, 2025.

#### <u>Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI)</u>

VATI provides funding to public/private partnerships to extend broadband service to unserved areas across the Commonwealth. In total, more than 146,198 locations now have access to broadband through VATI investments made since the end of January 2022!

#### **Line Extension Customer Assistance Program (LECAP)**

LECAP is an initiative designed to support the extension of existing broadband networks to reach low- to moderate-income residents. Since 2022, 319 households have received high speed internet access from this program and 216 are undergoing active construction!

**VACo Contact: Jeremy R. Bennett** 

# VDEM ANNOUNCES GRANT PROGRAM FOR ADDITIONAL NEXT GENERATION 9-1-1 FUNDING



9711 Farrar Court North Chesterfield, VA 23236

804.267.7610

🏶 www.vaemergency.gov

**RICHMOND** – On February 20, 2025, the Virginia 9-1-1 Services Board approved the Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) Additional Funding Grant Program. This grant program will provide \$20.3 million in funding to the 9-1-1 community to address immediate operational needs. This funding will be used to increase Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) operational resiliency and help the 9-1-1 community be better prepared for future unplanned disruptions.

The deployment of NG9-1-1 across Virginia is a project that transforms the landscape of public safety for those that live, work, and visit Virginia. Virginia's investment in connectivity, software, services, data, and training reduces the time between a 9-1-1 call and the dispatch of an appropriate response. Since 2018, the 9-1-1 Services Board has been singularly focused on the deployment of this new technology and providing funding to PSAPs to support these efforts. Recurring NG9-1-1 network costs are higher than legacy 9-1-1 recurring costs for most Virginia's PSAPs.

In recent 9-1-1 town halls, PSAP community members shared that their centers have several immediate operational gaps that need to be addressed in addition to recurring NG9-1-1 network costs. This grant program has been expanded to provide funding for NG9-1-1 recurring costs and/or other immediate operational needs.

"As we near the completion of NG9-1-1 deployments across the commonwealth, I want to thank the members of the 9-1-1 Services Board and the PSAP Grant Committee for their continued support and ongoing efforts to create a more resilient Virginia 9-1-1 system," said VDEM Deputy State Coordinator Dorothy Spears-Dean. "Our new grant program will help to ensure that this system continues to provide vital emergency services when needed and plan for a future that embraces state of the art technology for Virginia PSAPs."

Each primary PSAP is eligible to receive a minimum of \$150,000 for recurring NG9-1-1 network costs and/or other immediate operational needs. Eligible entities appear on the maps and lists on the Virginia Next Generation 9-1-1 Deployment **Dashboard**. The grant application cycle begins on March 1 and will remain open until June 30. PSAP grant guidelines are located **HERE**. Please contact **PSAPGrants@vdem.virginia.gov** if you have any questions.

VACo Contact: **Ieremy R. Bennett** 



#### Help inform the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan

Attend DCR's Webinar for Local & Regional Governments on the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan

Anywhere it can rain, it can flood. To ensure Virginia is increasing flood resilience across the Commonwealth, DCR is developing a statewide Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan (VFPMP).

Date: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 Time: 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

#### **REGISTER HERE**

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) invites you to help shape the future of flood protection in the Commonwealth by contributing your knowledge and expertise to the development of the VFPMP. The VFPMP is being updated for the first time in 20 years. This is your opportunity to help shape the plan that will guide the Commonwealth's flood protection efforts for years to come.

During this interactive webinar we will:

- Provide updates on the VFPMP development process
- Ask for real-time feedback on to inform the plan
- Share more ways that you can contribute throughout the plan development process

Following the webinar, we will ask for your feedback through a survey designed to gather input on the VFPMP development process from leaders across the Commonwealth.

<u>Learn more</u> about the Virginia Flood Protection Master Plan

VACo Contact: Joe Lerch, AICP



NACo ENTERPRISE FOR

**GOVERNMENT EXCELLENCE** 



# Webinar: Bridging the Generational Divide in the County Workforce

Wednesday, March 26, 2025 | 1-2p.m. ET

Join NACo's <u>High Performance Leadership Academy</u> for this webinar in which Dr. Tim Rahschulte will explain the challenges of **managing a multi-generational workforce** and provide practical strategies for bridging the divide and creating increased collaboration among your team. Dr. Rahschulte will outline the characteristics and values of each generation represented in our workforce today, share common stereotypes associated with each generation, and detail how they can impact workforce dynamics.

Importantly, strategies will be shared for **building a culture of inclusion and understanding**, techniques for promoting open communication, creating opportunities for cross-generational collaboration, and leveraging the strengths of each generation for the benefit of each person in your workforce and each customer they serve in your community. As part of this conversation, we will explore together ways to address conflicts that arise due to generational differences and how to **foster a workplace culture that values individual contribution and collaboration**.

This webinar is brought to you by NACo EDGE, establishing people, purchasing, and performance costsaving solutions that can be applied to counties nationwide.

EDGE is owned by NACo, advised by county leaders and 100% focused on solutions for U.S. Counties. Learn more about NACo EDGE here.



#### **STATE NEWS**



#### VIRGINIA OPIOID ABATEMENT AUTHORITY 2025 ABATEMENT ACADEMY SCHEDULE

701 East Franklin Street, Suite 803, Richmond, Virginia 23219 | info@voaa.us | www.voaa.us

The Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority's (OAA) "Abatement Academy" webinars are free and highlight examples of programs and strategies currently operating in Virginia that align with nationally recognized principles for the use of funds from opioid litigation. The intended audience includes local government representatives, state agency professionals, and groups or individuals who provide services or support to people suffering from opioid use disorders. Registration links and/or recordings and related information are listed below for each session.

# Reminder on Upcoming Webinars for Cities, Counties, and State Agencies

- State Agencies OAA Portal Training
  - March 5, 2025 10:00 am 11:00 am
  - Charlie Lintecum and Sharekka Bridges, OAA
  - o **Registration**
  - This webinar recording and slide deck will also be posted on OAA's website following the webinar.
- Cities and Counties Open Q&A / Support
  - o March 12, 2025 10:00 am − 11:00 am
  - Charlie Lintecum and Sharekka Bridges, OAA
  - Registration
- Cities and Counties Open Q&A / Support
  - March 21, 2025 10:00 am 11:00 am (this is a change from March 19)
  - Charlie Lintecum and Sharekka Bridges, OAA
  - Registration
- Cities and Counties Open Q&A / Support
  - March 26, 2025 10:00 am 11:00 am
  - Charlie Lintecum and Sharekka Bridges, OAA
  - Registration



## EMPOWERING EMPLOYERS STRENGTHENING EMPLOYEES

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#### **Employees:**

Enhance financial security Improve overall wellbeing Meet specific needs

#### **Community:**

Unite employers, employees, and their communities with programs such as Benefits That Benefit Children.







Pierce Insurance was selected by National Benefit Partners to represent Benefits That Benefit Children's voluntary products and services and our clients have since raised over \$122,000 for Children's Hospital Foundations.



Benefits That Benefit Children "Children's Champions" employers win because they generate significant donations to children's hospitals in their communities simply by offering select best-in-class voluntary benefits to their employees – no purchase necessary.



Benefits That Benefit Children "Children's Champions" employees win because they are able to elect best-in-class voluntary benefits products and services with preferred underwriting and plan designs from some of the nation's top-rated employee benefit providers.



Children's hospitals all across the country win because the Benefits That Benefit Children cause marketing program raises awareness of their special financial needs and provides significant donations to their foundations.





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#### You are VAcorp

You are not merely a customer of VAcorp; you **are** VAcorp! We are both owned and governed by you – our members! VAcorp is created under 15.2-2700 of the local government code where all assets and surplus belong to the members. In addition, VAcorp is controlled by a Supervisory Board that is elected from and by our members. The Board determines and approves all major risk pool decisions, and as a voting member, you have a voice in the decisions that matter most.

#### Know Who You Are

Because you are VAcorp itself, we think it is critical that you understand exactly what VAcorp is and why it exists. Many simply think of us as their "insurance carrier" – writing customized coverages and handling claims when they occur – but we are so much more!

#### **Our History**

#### The Birth of Risk Pools

VAcorp is not an insurance company, but rather a Risk Pool.

Unstable economic conditions in the mid-1980s led to a commercial insurance crisis with ballooning premiums and widespread policy cancellations. As a result, Risk Pools began to form as an alternative to volatile traditional carriers, allowing Pool members to exert more control over their coverages and costs. Today, almost all public sector entities throughout the country get their coverage from Risk Pools rather than from commercial insurance companies.

#### VAcorp's Origin

VAcorp was founded by a handful of Virginia counties in 1993. The ultimate goals of the program were to provide **cost stability**, the most **comprehensive coverages** possible, and **custom services** tailored specifically to the unique needs of our members. While we are pleased by how well our prices compare against the competition, our goal was never to guarantee the lowest cost. Instead, we promised to avoid the wild price swings that we've seen in other providers and provide stable pricing year after year, and that is exactly what we have delivered. VAcorp rates are actually **lower today in 2024 than they were in 1993!** 

#### VAcorp's Growth

Today, VAcorp is the **largest self-insurance risk pool** for public sector entities in the Commonwealth with a membership retention rate of better than 98%. Over the years, we have expanded beyond counties to include municipalities, school divisions, authorities, volunteer fire & rescue companies, state agencies, and non-profits funded by taxpayer dollars. **Over 560 members** have joined VAcorp, including 8 of the 10 largest counties, 8 of the 10 largest cities, and 8 of the 10 largest school divisions. We believe that the extraordinary success of the program can be attributed to our unwavering commitment to our founding principles.

#### **VAcorp Exists to Serve You**

VAcorp was created solely to serve Virginia's public sector entities, and from day one until now, we have never lost sight of that purpose. Because we answer only to our members, every decision is designed to benefit the group over the long haul.

VAcorp advocates for local government through a myriad of partnerships with affiliated associations including: VACo, VSBA, VLGMA, VASS, VFGOA, VASBO, LGA, Regional Jail Association, PDC, etc. While there is a cost associated with these partnerships, they add value to the group by aiding in our ability to lobby the General Assembly on behalf of our members.

You may not always see the immediate payoff, but every VAcorp decision is made in alignment with our vision to serve our members and promote the health and longevity of your program.

Take a look at a few of VAcorp's milestones over the years:

- 1993 VAcorp is established with 12 founding members and less than \$700,000 in annual contribution.
- 1998 VAcorp terminates service contract with claims administration vendor and hires staff to promote more control and efficiency.
- 1999 VAcorp offers coverage to K-12 Public Schools across the Commonwealth.
- 2001 VAcorp begins offering Public Officials Liability coverage in response to VArisk offering limited coverage.
- 2004 VAcorp begins providing Environmental Liability coverage to all members at no additional cost. Even in 2024, VAcorp is the only provider offering this coverage with a low \$25,000 deductible. Other providers offer this coverage with a \$250,000 deductible.
- **2008** VAcorp responded to the great recession by freezing rates and providing financial relief with over \$8,000,000 in dividends to members.
- **2011** VAcorp introduces Line of Duty Act (LODA) coverage, creates the only LODA trust in the state, and absorbs existing LODA losses in response to the state pushing this cost to the local level. VAcorp paid all of its members' 2010 past liability for over \$1,000,000.
- 2013 VAcorp merges with the VSBA Self-Insurance Group and assumes their liabilities to prevent School Boards from being assessed. This action saves Local Governments in excess of \$5,000,000.
- **2013** VAcorp becomes the first to offer Cyber Risk coverage in Virginia offering the broadest coverage available to local governments anywhere in the US.
- 2016 VAcorp offers Student Accident and Catastrophic Accident coverage in order to fill VHSL coverage gaps.
- **2020** VAcorp provides over \$5,000,000 in rate credits during the COVID pandemic to assist members.
- 2023 VAcorp includes security risk management coverage (active shooter) for all members (coverage has been included for Schools since 2013).





# INTRODUCING A NEW VACo PREMIER PARTNER

#### **Anthony Chapman**

National Program Director
NACo Public Promise Procurement

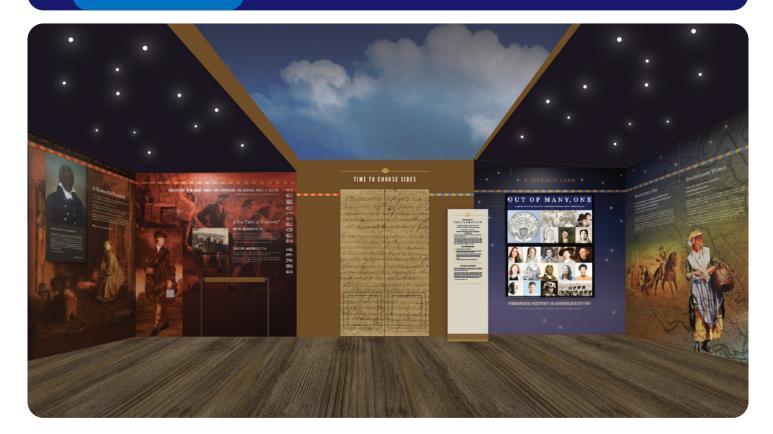
**Direct:** 804.399.1821

Email: achapman@naco.org

Website: www.publicpromiseprocurement.org

The PPP resource hub is up and available at...

https://publicpromiseprocurement.org/resourcehub



# The VA250 Mobile Museum: A Classroom on Wheels

Get ready to bring Virginia's history to life! The VA250 Mobile Museum Experience, a hands-on, interactive, and immersive museum on wheels, is coming early 2025. This unique experience will transport students back in time, exploring key stories from every region of the state.

#### Perfect for:

- Schools: Enhance your curriculum with a memorable field trip.
- Community organizations: Host a unique event for all ages.
- Local festivals: Attract visitors with a fascinating historical exhibit.

Book the museum for your school or community event today! Visit <a href="mailto:the VA250">the VA250</a> website for more information and to schedule a visit.



### Get your VA250 license plates - now available

Are you ready to show your pride in America's 250th anniversary? The VA250 commemorative license plate is now available for purchase! As a symbol of our nation's rich history and bright future, this limited-edition license plate offers a unique opportunity to drive with a piece of history.

By purchasing a VA250 license plate, you're not only adding a stylish touch to your vehicle, but you're also supporting a worthy cause. A portion of the proceeds from each plate sold will be donated directly to VA250, a non-profit organization dedicated to creating educational programs, events, and exhibits to commemorate America's 250th anniversary.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to own a piece of history and support a great cause. <u>Visit the Virginia DMV website</u> to purchase your VA250 license plate today.

#### In Partnership With

## Partnership in Action





#### **Benefits Consulting**

Learn how to leverage plan designs for a sustainable benefits program.



#### HR Compliance

Meet your legal obligations related to human resources and employee benefits



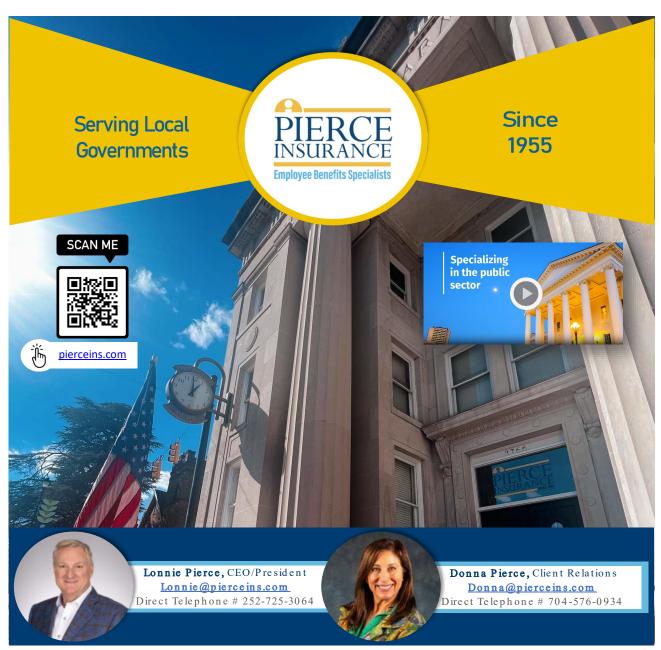
#### State-of-the-Art Technology

Reduce your administrative burden with online enrollment and onboarding tools.



#### Employee Advocacy

Provide effective communication and personal support for employees.







## Equipment Lease-Purchase Financing

Equipment Lease-Purchase Financing is a great tool to make your locality's and school division's budget go further!

Contact us for details.

#### **VML/VACo Equipment Lease-Purchase Financing offers:**

- Competitive rates and low closing costs.
- Predictable and level payments.
- Lease terms up to the expected life of the equipment.
- Streamlined process we handle the details for you.

Budget less in the current year by spreading payments out over the useful life of the equipment – perfect for school buses, fire engines, and police cars.

#### **CONTACT US TODAY**

#### **Questions?**

Contact Steve Mulroy 804-648-0635

smulroy@valocalfinance.org



## VACo Seeks to Create Mentorship Program for Supervisors



Dear Members/County Administrators...

VACo is blessed to have many smart and experienced Supervisors. This year we welcomed a slew of newly elected Supervisors, some of whom have expressed interest in being mentored. VACo thrives when Supervisors connect and share experiences and challenges. Therefore, we would like to establish an informal, voluntary mentoring program to offer opportunities for personalized connections among Supervisors.

If you are interested in being a mentor or being connected with a mentor, please contact Karie Walker, <a href="kwalker@vaco.org">kwalker@vaco.org</a> or 804-343-2504.

We look forward to hearing from you!

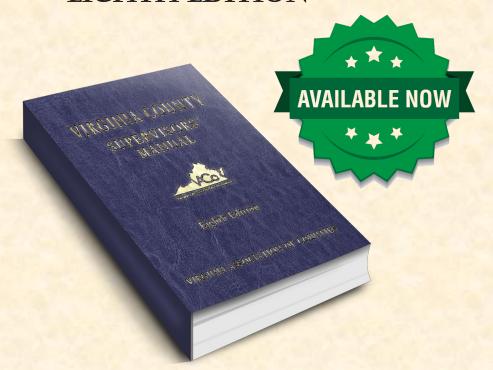
Sincerely,

#### Karie Walker

Director of Programs and Development Virginia Association of Counties

## VIRGINIA COUNTY SUPERVISORS' MANUAL

**EIGHTH EDITION** 



## ORDER YOURS TODAY \$75 EACH

(SHIPPING IS INCLUDED)





## Virginia County Supervisors' Manual 8th Edition





The Eighth Edition of VACo's *Virginia County Supervisors' Manual* is in stock. The Supervisors' Manual is the number one resource on the framework of county government and the responsibilities of the county board.

#### **ORDER YOUR ALL-NEW VOLUME NOW**

ORDER FORM
NAME: TITLE:
COUNTY (OR ORGANIZATION):
SHIPPING ADDRESS:
CITY / STATE / ZIP:
PHONE: EMAIL:
PAYMENT INFORMATION
Manuals are \$75 per copy. Number of Copies
Check enclosed for \$ Make payable to VACo Services, Inc.

If you are paying by credit card, an invoice will be sent you.

Mail completed form to:

Virginia Association of Counties 1207 East Main Street, Suite 300 Richmond, VA 23219-3627

Or FAX form to 804.788.0083 Questions? Call



#### **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

County Connections | Page 30

The Virginia Association of Counties accepts employment ads in a PDF file or a link to a job site. Please include information for applying, and a link to other important information. Please do not fax your employment ad. VACo members are not charged for placing an employment ad. The cost is \$100 per ad for non-VACo members. VACo publishes the ad on its website and mobile app as well as the upcoming County Connections issue. If you have any questions or concerns, please email Valerie Russell.

RFP FOR LEGAL SERVICES | Halifax County | Posted March 7

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE** | **Halifax County** | Posted March 7

ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY | Fluvanna County | Posted March 5

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF GENERAL SERVICES** | **Hanover County** | Posted March 5

**PLANNER II | Botetourt County** | Posted March 5

PLANNER I, II, OR SENIOR | Berkley Group | Posted March 4

TOWN MANAGER | Town of Port Royal | Posted March 4

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER | King William County | Posted March 4

**SENIOR STORMWATER ENGINEER** | **Loudoun County** | Posted March 4

**GENERAL MANAGER** | King George County | Posted March 4

SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTER (PART-TIME) | Chesterfield County | Posted March 3

SENIOR CLINICIAN (CHILD & ADOLESCENT SERVICES) | Chesterfield County | Posted Mary

**Chesterfield County** | Posted March 3

**VAN DRIVER** | **Chesterfield County** | Posted March 3

MHSS EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANT
JOB COACH/CHESTERFIELD
EMPLOYMENT SERVICES |

**Chesterfield County** | Posted March 3

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES** | **Spotsylvania County** | Posted March 3

**COMPRENSATION ANALYST** | **Albemarle County** | Posted March 3

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES** | **Fluvanna County** | Posted March 3

PRINCIPAL ENGINEER | Chesterfield County | Posted March 3

BUDGET & PROCUREMENT
MANAGER | Loudoun County | Posted
March 3

SENIOR ENGINEER (PT) –
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING |
Chesterfield County | Posted March 3

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** | **Town of Woodstock** | Posted February 27

**PLANNER OR SENIOR PLANNER | Shenandoah County |** Posted February 27

ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY |
Chesterfield County | Posted February

**REGIONAL FIREFIGHTER TESTING** | **City of Harrisonburg** | Posted February 27

**DIRECTOR OF VICTIM WITNESS** | **New Kent County** | Posted February 27

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE
SUPERINTENDENT/CLERK OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD | Amelia County
| Posted February 26

ACCOUNTING & GRANTS
SPECIALIST | Middle Peninsula
Planning District Commission
| Posted February 26

PRINCIPAL PLANNER –
COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING |
Hanover County | Posted February 25

**CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER** |

**Hanover County** | Posted February 25

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE

(ASSERTIVE COMMUNITY

TREATMENT) | Chesterfield County
| Posted February 24

**APPRAISER I** | **Chesterfield County** | Posted February 24

**CLINICIAN (SUBSTANCE ABUSE)** | **Chesterfield County** | Posted February 24

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES** | **Spotsylvania County** | Posted February 24

ASSISTANT COUNTY
ADMINISTRATOR | Hall County,
Georgia | Posted February 24

SCHOOL BUS TECHNICIAN | Chesterfield County | Posted February 24

**SENIOR SCHOOL BUS TECHNICIAN** | **Chesterfield County** | Posted February 24

**EMERGENCY VEHICLE TECHNICIAN** | **Chesterfield County** | Posted February 24

SENIOR COORDINATOR OF BUSINESS INFORMATION SYSTEMS | City of Norfolk Public Schools | Posted February 24

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF ACCOUNTING | City of Norfolk Public Schools | Posted February 24

GENERAL ACCOUNTING MANAGER | City of Norfolk Public Schools | Posted February 24

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL SERVICES | City of Norfolk Public Schools | Posted February 24

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR | Charlotte County | Posted February 21

PRINICIPAL ENGINEER
(ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING) |
Chesterfield County | Posted February
21

#### **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

#### County Connections | Page 31

## **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PSYCHOLOGIST** | **Chesterfield County** | Posted February 21

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR | Scott County | Posted February 21** 

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT | Amelia County
| Posted February 21

**DEPUTY CLERK TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** | **Stafford County** | Posted February 20

#### **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC UTILITIES |**

**Shenandoah County** | Posted February 20

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR TAX ADMINISTRATION** | **Fairfax County** | Posted February 30

**BENEFITS ADMINISTRATOR | Town** of Leesburg | Posted February 20

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE** | **Hanover County** | Posted February 20

COMMERCIAL BUILDING
INSPECTOR | Chesterfield County
| Posted February 20

#### **STRUCTURAL BUILDING INSPECTOR**

**Chesterfield County** | Posted February 20

**SENIOR PLANNER** | **Chesterfield County** | Posted February 20

<u>VAN DRIVER</u> | Chesterfield County | Posted February 20

#### **MHSS SERVICE SUPERVISOR** |

**Chesterfield County** | Posted February 20

#### **SENIOR ADMINISTRATION ANALYST |**

**Chesterfield County** | Posted February 20

#### MHSS EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST |

**Chester field County** | Posted February 20

#### PEER RECOVERY SPECIALIST

**Chesterfield County** | Posted February 20

#### ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY |

**Chesterfield County** | Posted February 20

#### **KINSHIP/FOSTER CARE TRAINER** |

**Montgomery County** | Posted February 20

MANAGEMENT SERVICES SPECIALIST II – PAYROLL | Campbell County

| Posted February 18

#### **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

**Spotsylvania County** | Posted February 18

**DIRECTOR OF PLANNING | City of Winchester |** Posted February 14

TOWN MANAGER | Town of Broadway | Posted February 14

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OPIOID
SETTLEMENT LIAISON | Virginia
Opioid Abatement Authority | Posted
February 13

**DIRECTOR OF FINANCE** | Halifax **County** | Posted February 13

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** |

Charlottesville-UVA-Albemarle Emergency Communications Center-Bakertilly | Posted February 13

INFORMATION & MARKET
SPECIALIST | New Kent County
| Posted February 13

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM |

**Arlington County** | Posted February 13

NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR

Warren County | Posted February 12

FINANCE DEPARTMENT MANAGER |

**Amelia County** | Posted February 11

**COUNTY ASSESSOR | York County** | Posted February 11

AUTOMOTIVE MAINTENANCE
SUPERVISOR | Chesterfield County
| Posted February 10

#### **AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIAN** |

**Chesterfield County** | Posted February

**RADIO INSTALLATION TECHNICIAN** |

**Chesterfield County** | Posted February

**CASHIER/GROUNDS ATTENDANT |** 

**Chesterfield County** | Posted February 10

**TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISOR** |

**Chesterfield County** | Posted February 10

RESIDENTIAL AIDE (PAMPAS GROUP

**HOME)** | **Chesterfield County** | Posted February 10

**HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR** 

**Chesterfield County** | Posted February 10

CASE MANAGER (HOUSING SPECIALIST) | Chesterfield County

| Posted February 10

SENIOR CLINICIAN | Chesterfield

County | Posted February 10

**DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY** 

Loudoun County | Posted February 10

ASSISTANT PROGRAM MANAGER |

**Loudoun County** | Posted February 10

**ENGINEER II** | **Loudoun County** | Posted February 10

.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES** 

**Spotsylvania County** | Posted February 10

FRAUD INVESTIGATOR - DSS |

**Montgomery County** | Posted February 7

SENIOR ASSISTANT COUNTY
ATTORNEY OR ASSISTANT COUNTY
ATTORNEY | Albemarle County

| Posted February 7

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
TOURISM MANAGER | Warren County

| Posted February 7

**DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** | Westmoreland

County | Posted February 7

#### VALUE OF VACo



#### **ADVOCACY**

VACo's lobbying efforts have helped stem the tide of unfunded mandates and have saved Counties millions of dollars every year.



#### **EDUCATION**

Our educational programs offer County leaders and staff opportunities to become more effective in their communities.



#### MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT

Some of VACo's best moments are when members convene and work to improve communities all over the Commonwealth.



#### **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

Our business development opportunities offer savings and innovative approaches to delivering services at the County level.

#### VACo LEADERSHIP



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Ruth Larson
James City County



First Vice President

Victor S. Angry

Prince William County



Secretary-Treasurer Donald L. Hart, Jr. Accomack County



President-Elect
William M. McCarty
Isle of Wight County



Second Vice President

Phil C. North

Roanoke County



Immediate Past President **Ann H. Mallek**Albemarle County

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Director of Local Government Policy | Joe Lerch, AICP

Administrative Coordinator | Valerie M. Russell

**Director of Programs and Development | Karie Walker** 

VACo exists to support county officials and to effectively represent, promote and protect the interests of counties to better serve the people of Virginia.

1207 East Main Street | Suite 300 Richmond, VA 23219-3627 Phone: 804.788.6652 | www.vaco.org

County Connections is a semimonthly publication.

